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Dinner to Carlos F. MacDonald, M. D.

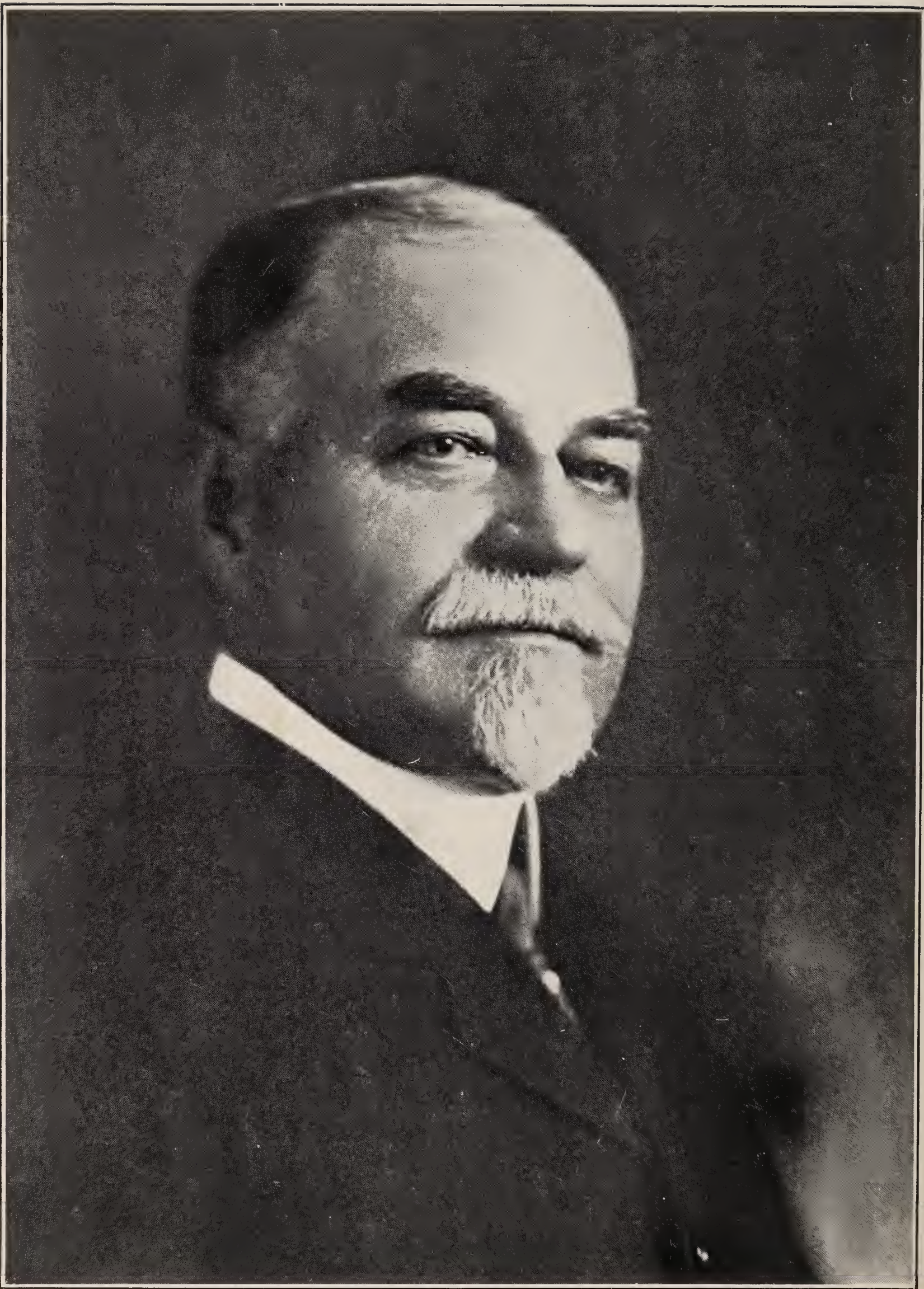
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CARLOS F. MAC DONALD, M. D.

DINNER TO CARLOS F. MACDONALD, M. D.

On the evening of February 2, 1910, at the Hotel Astor, New York City, a complimentary dinner was given to Doctor Carlos F. MacDonald, to mark the termination of forty years' consecutive practice of medicine, and, what is far more important, to mark the close of twenty years since the State Care Act went into effect whereby the insane wards of the State were taken out of alms-houses, poor-houses and various county buildings and placed in the State hospitals for proper care and treatment.

Doctor MacDonald was born in Niles, Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1845. He is of Scottish ancestry which is traceable to the famous Clan MacDonald of the Isles. Thrown upon his own resources in early boyhood, young MacDonald attended the common schools of the Western Reserve of his native State until the call for troops at the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion rang in his ears. In 1862, at the age of 16, he enlisted in the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and remained in the field until the end of the hostilities, serving progressively as private, corporal and regimental non-commissioned staff officer. He took part in the battles of Cross Keys, Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Chantilly, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Aldie, Upperville, Gettysburg, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Todd's Tavern, Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, the siege of Richmond, the siege of Petersburg, Hatcher's Run, Five Forks and Appomattox, besides participating in many skirmishes and in the famous cavalry raids of Kilpatrick, Custer and Sheridan. He was under fire for the last time at Lee's surrender at Appomattox, and was mustered out of the service with his regiment in August, 1865, at Cleveland, Ohio.

After about one year at high school, young MacDonald entered upon the study of medicine and soon enrolled at Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City, from which he was graduated in March, 1869, with the degree of M. D. Doctor MacDonald then served on the medical

staff of Kings County Hospital, Flatbush, L. I., for the regular term of fifteen months, which in those days and until a few years ago included a thorough experience in general medicine, surgery, obstetrics, contagious diseases and an additional service in the smallpox hospital.

In 1870 he was appointed assistant physician in the Kings County Insane Asylum at Flatbush, L. I. (one of the buildings of which asylum is now known as Long Island State Hospital), and in 1873 was appointed superintendent of that institution, at the age of 28 years, being then the youngest asylum superintendent in this country. After a long contest with malignant influences, and after an unequal struggle against improper control and political and partisan influences, Doctor MacDonald, together with his medical associates, resigned from all connection with the Kings County Asylum in 1875, setting forth in his letter of resignation the abuses that existed in the institution, without fear or favor. Shortly thereafter he was appointed to the superintendency of the Auburn Asylum, which was in a condition of demoralization, dilapidation and decay and which he placed on a high level of order and efficiency. While at Auburn he abolished the use of mechanical restraint in the treatment of insane patients, this being the first instance in this country of the absolute disuse of such restraint in a hospital for the insane.

In 1877 Governor Robinson appointed him a manager of the then existing State Inebriate Asylum at Binghamton, N. Y., which position he filled with satisfaction to the Governor until the institution was converted by act of legislature into a hospital for the insane. Governor Robinson and the trustees of the new institution urged him to accept the appointment to the superintendency of it, which the doctor accepted; and thereupon he immediately entered upon the task, in association with Isaac G. Perry, of remodeling and refitting the existing buildings in order to adapt them to the uses of the insane. He resigned from the Binghamton institution in 1880, and in 1881 was reappointed superintendent of the Auburn Asylum, where he remained in charge until May, 1889. At the latter date, at

the request of Governor Hill, he accepted the position of President of the State Commission in Lunacy, recently created, to succeed the single commissioner and thenceforth to consist of three members of which the medical commissioner is necessarily president.

While in Auburn Doctor MacDonald conceived the idea of establishing a separate hospital for insane criminals; and, the legislature favoring, the institution at Matteawan, N. Y., was erected and has since been in successful operation. The Dannemora State Asylum for insane convicts is an offshoot of the Matteawan institution, and owes its existence to Dr. MacDonald's original ideas. Not only was he instrumental in procuring the necessary legislation for the construction and equipment of Matteawan State Hospital but he was the active member of the commission charged with the selection of the site and the erection of the buildings.

As President of the State Commission in Lunacy Doctor MacDonald took a very active part in the movement begun by the State Charities Aid Association in 1886 to secure State Care for the dependent insane. Probably without his co-operation the project would not have been successful at all at that time. The report that he and his associate commissioners, Messrs. Brown and Reeves, presented to the legislature in 1890, fearlessly exposing the wretched system of county care for the insane in such convincing terms that even the few reluctant legislators were soon convinced, attracted wide attention through the medical and secular press, and gave the death-blow to county care of the insane in the State of New York.

In 1890 State Care for the insane became complete, through the delivery to the State of the New York City and Kings County asylums, which became the Manhattan and Long Island State Hospitals.

Doctor MacDonald has made numerous contributions to medical literature and especially to the literature of insanity and cognate topics, and has achieved a wide reputation as an alienist and a medico-legal expert in mental diseases. He was Professor of mental diseases and medical jurisprudence in Bellevue Hospital Medical College from 1886 to 1906 and

has since been Professor Emeritus in that institution. Doctor MacDonald has been appointed special commissioner by Governors and Courts in many instances, and has been employed by many district attorneys also, to examine and report upon the mental condition of persons charged with crime. He has also appeared as an expert witness in hundreds of cases, civil and criminal, in the State of New York as well as in other States and countries. He has studied the methods of caring for the insane in many of the States of this country, as well as in European cities, Cuba and Mexico. During his incumbency the Doctor has prepared questions for the examination of candidates for the various grades of medical officers in State hospitals, at the request of the Civil Service Commission.

Upon appointment by Governor Hill Doctor MacDonald acted as medical counsel at the execution of Kemler at Auburn Prison, the first criminal in this country to be executed by electricity. Subsequently, at the Governor's request, he was present at six consecutive electrical executions at Sing Sing Prison and made a detailed report upon them, setting forth the methods of application and the results of electric currents of lethal energy upon a human subject as shown by the autopsies made. This was the first report of this kind to be presented to the scientific world and was so convincing as to put at rest in the public mind the doubt that had been entertained as to the practicability of this method of execution.

The Erie County Bar Association called Doctor MacDonald to Buffalo, N. Y., to determine the mental condition of Leon F. Czolgosz, the assassin of the lamented President McKinley. After several examinations, in which Dr. Arthur W. Hurd, superintendent of Buffalo State Hospital, participated, Czolgosz was pronounced sane and was promptly convicted of murder in the first degree. Doctor MacDonald witnessed the execution of this criminal at Auburn Prison, directed the autopsy which was made by Dr. Edward A. Spitzka, and made a complete report of the trial, execution, autopsy and mental status of the murderer.

On October 1, 1896, Doctor MacDonald resigned from

the position of Commissioner in Lunacy to enter upon the work of conducting a private licensed institution for the treatment of insane patients, which he still conducts under the title "Dr. MacDonald's House," at Central Valley, N. Y. The Doctor was lecturer on insanity at Albany Medical College for several years; is consulting physician at Manhattan State Hospital; consulting alienist at Hackensack City Hospital; and is a member of the American Medico-Psychological Association; New York County and New York State Medical Societies; New York Academy of Medicine; New York Psychiatric Society; Ohio Society of New York; Lotus Club; and George Washington Post No. 103, G. A. R., of New York.

Union College conferred the honorary degree of A. M. upon Doctor MacDonald in 1894.

Over one hundred associates and friends of Doctor MacDonald assembled on the evening of February 2 to join in the felicitations and to unite in testifying to the great services of the Doctor in the medical field, especially in the advances made by the State Commission in Lunacy under his guidance. The dinner was held under the auspices of a general committee of twenty-seven gentlemen, the active work being done largely by Dr. William B. Pritchard, Professor in the Polyclinic, New York City; Dr. William Mabon, superintendent of Manhattan State Hospital, and Professor in New York University and Bellevue Medical College; and Dr. M. G. Schlapp, Professor in Fordham University. Among those present were Vice Chancellor Eugene Stevenson of New Jersey, Dr. Robert Abbe, Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., Dr. W. F. Fluhrer, Dr. Virgil P. Gibney, Mr. Francis P. Garvan, Dr. M. B. Heyman of Central Islip, Dr. I. G. Harris of Hudson River, Dr. Abraham Jacobi, Dr. Alexander Lambert, Dr. Egbert LeFevre, Mr. T. E. McGarr, Dr. L. H. Neumann of Albany, Hon. Rastus S. Ransom, Dr. E. W. Scripture, Dr. Keith Sears of Matteawan, Hon. John B. Stanchfield, Dr. A. Alexander Smith, Dr. John E. Weeks, Dr. S. E. Jelliffe, Justice James B. Blanchard, Dr. Robert T. Morris, Dr. Allen R. Diefendorf, Mr. Charles A. Smith, Hon. Hugh Hastings, Dr. Henry L.

Elsner of Syracuse, Dr. Samuel B. Ward of Albany, Dr. Edward C. Spitzka, Dr. Charles L. Dana, Dr. Eugene H. Porter, State Commissioner of Health, and many of the physicians connected with the State hospital service including, beside Superintendent Mabon, Superintendent George A. Smith of Central Islip, Superintendent Charles W. Pilgrim of Hudson River, Superintendent Richard H. Hutchings of St. Lawrence, Superintendent Robert B. Lamb of Matteawan, Superintendent Charles H. North of Dannemora, Medical Inspector William L. Russell, Dr. George B. Campbell and Dr. William E. Sylvester of the State Board of Alienists and Commissioners Albert Warren Ferris, M. D., and Sheldon T. Viele. There were also present Superintendents Lyon of Bloomingdale; Wilsey of Long Island Home; Sefton of The Pines; Parsons of Greenmont; Bond of Dr. Bond's House and Packer of The Knolls, as well as Dr. Dold, Physician-in-Charge of River Crest.

The toast list was as follows:

“THE PHYSICIAN,”

Hon. Stephen Smith, M. D.

“THE TEACHER,”

Prof. Austin Flint, M. D.

“THE PUBLIC OFFICER,”

Hon. Goodwin Brown.

“THE EXPERT,”

Hon. Wm. Travers Jerome.

“THE MAN,”

Hon. De Lancey Nicoll.

TOASTMASTER: Prof. George D. Stewart, M. D.

The Honorable Stephen Smith, M. D., former State Commissioner in Lunacy, being unable to be present, sent the following letter:

300 CENTRAL PARK WEST,
January 14, 1910.

DR. WM. B. PRITCHARD,
143 West 42d Street.

My Dear Doctor:

I regret to reply to your invitation to participate in a dinner to be given to Carlos F. MacDonald, M. D., that I shall be prevented from enjoying the honor, and very great pleasure of participating in the proposed dinner, on account of absence from the city, at that time, in California.

It is very gratifying to learn that a distinguished body of citizens is about to show their appreciation of the public service of Dr. MacDonald in this formal but most appropriate manner.

I have known Dr. MacDonald from his entrance upon the study of his profession—as he was my private student—to the present time and can speak of him and his work from personal knowledge.

Dr. MacDonald's career is another marked illustration of the genius of American institutions to stimulate to intense activity the energies of those who in early life are handicapped by conditions unfavorable to success, and to provide the ways and means by which they may attain the position in professional or business life to which they may aspire. The leaders in every department of human endeavor in this country belong to that class.

The special field of labor to which Dr. MacDonald has devoted his life has been the practical care and treatment of the insane, and to the performance of the duties of that most difficult task he brought high ideals, and that patient perseverance which always wins success. At the period when he entered the State service the question of "non-restraint of the insane," was being vigorously discussed by alienists at home and abroad. Among the older Superintendents the proposition received the most positive denial.

The State Institution for the Insane, the inmates of which at that time received the greatest amount of restraint, was the "Asylum for Insane Criminals," at Auburn. It had the reputation of not only employing all the severer forms of restraint, but the attendants were armed with revolvers. The disorder and violence in this institution finally became a public scandal and a change in its management was demanded. To meet this emergency Dr. MacDonald was called to the position of Superintendent.

I well remember my first visit to this Asylum on assuming the duties of State Commissioner in Lunacy. Dr. MacDonald had then been in charge but a comparatively short period. Having long been familiar with the previous reputation of the management, in its entire failure to discipline the inmates except by employment of extreme measures of restraint, I was astonished to find the perfect order which prevailed in every department of the Asylum, the freedom from all

forms of mechanical restraint, and the general good-feeling which prevailed among the inmates, even in the most disturbed Hall. During my subsequent service of six years as State Commissioner in Lunacy this institution maintained its position as one of the best managed Asylums in the State.

It was but a natural and logical succession of events in a career so well begun that elevated Dr. MacDonald to the presidency of the Lunacy Commission, that called him to a professorship of Mental Diseases in one of the largest Medical Colleges of the country, and that now summons him as an expert in the courts in those more celebrated trials where the abstruse questions of insanity are the issue.

With the relation of these reminiscences I beg to assure you that I most cordially join in honoring the guest of the evening.

Truly yours,

(Signed) STEPHEN SMITH.

During the evening the witty and erudite Toastmaster, Dr. Stewart, read the following original poem which he jocosely declared to be an unpublished poem by Robbie Burns.

Dear Mac! I hardly ken what arts
Gies you your power o'er human hearts;
Ye hae sae many takin' parts
 Wi' great and sma',
To reckon them a man whyles starts
 But ne'er kens a'.

I'm thinkin' when your life I scan,
'Tis no result o' birth or lan',
But the outcome o' nature's plan
 Weel wrought in view;—
She just turned aff a pairfect man,
 And that wis you.

Ye listened to wild war's alarms
While still within your mither's arms;
Then could na stop wi' pleughs and farms,
 But e'en must gang
And try to right, midst battlin' storms,
 Your country's wrang.

And then, when to the ark once more,
The dove her branch of olive bore,
Your country's needin' ye no more,
 For fechtin' sair,
Ye filled wi' Hippocratic lore,
 For curin' care.

The daft and helpless were your ward,
 The sauls by sin and sickness scaured,
 O'er them ye kept the faithfu' guard,
 True to yer aim;
 And 'fended them 'gainst the attackin' horde,
 O' greed and gain.

That's just a swatch o' Mac's ain way,
 Thus goes he on frae day to day,
 He does the wark that comes his way—
 Lies to his han'—
 And on high ground o' honesty,
 He taks his stand.

And Mac, when comes Life's end in view,
 When fa's the gloamin' and the dew,
 I'll be content to join the few
 An' leave the thrang,
 Content to make a pair wi' you
 Where'er ye gang.

GEORGE DAVID STEWART.

Dr. Austin Flint's response to his toast was as follows:

August 29 is a date made memorable by a culmination of the wickedness of that infamous necrophile, Salome, in the year 30. The story of this atrocious deed, expanded by a pervert, is even now served up, in the guise of music, for the delectation of morbid opera-goers. As a relief from this, we find a few martyrs and some saints born on the memorable August 29 up to 1632, the year of the birth of John Locke, author of "Essay on the Human Understanding." Few memorable events, however, occurred on that date until the year 1845.

On August 29, 1845, in the town of Niles, in the State of Ohio, a male child was born to John and Caroline MacDonald. "The child is father to the man," Doctor Carlos Frederick MacDonald, in whose honor we are assembled here to-night.

History has failed to record the career of Carlos Frederick MacDonald for the period from August 29, 1845, to some time in 1862. In 1862, he was a resident of Randolph, in the State of Ohio. He disappeared from his home in that year; the tradition being that he suddenly became affected with what is known as ambulatory automatism, with delusions of military grandeur, and of amnesia, the latter in regard especially to his age, notwithstanding the fact that his birthday had been celebrated, with much pomp and circumstance throughout the State of Ohio, for seventeen years. In this connection, it is important to note that, shortly after the disappearance of MacDonald, the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry was enriched by the enlistment of a boy, with "a lean and hungry look," but who by no

means carried out the notion of Julius Cæsar that "such men are dangerous." This was a typical light cavalry man, weighing about a hundred and ten pounds. He was no less a person than Carlos Frederick MacDonald.

MacDonald did not disappoint the watchful citizens of his native State in his military career. Victory after victory perched upon the banners of the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry. The fame of this wonderful organization extended far and wide. Franz von Suppe, Kapelmeister to the Court at Vienna, pictured the deeds of the Sixth Ohio in his famous Light Cavalry Overture, which was played to an immense audience in Central Park by the regimental band and aroused wild enthusiasm. But MacDonald, always at the front in war, kept modestly in the rear in times of peace. He refused to have this overture called by his name.

The end of the civil war was brought about largely by the splendid work of the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry; and with no more confederates to conquer, MacDonald's occupation was gone. At this crisis in the history of his country and in the biography of MacDonald, he had a second attack of ambulatory automatism which brought him to New York.

In 1867, I was engaged in the onerous and thankless task of running a Medical College. On September 17 of that year, with an unconscious, modest, but highly characteristic volunteer Cavalry swagger, our MacDonald made his way to the Faculty Room. He enrolled himself as a student. For two years, I harried him, worried him, bullied him and taught him, as was my habit with those in whom I was interested—and I was much interested in this bold and modest soldier-boy. On March 1, 1869, after a cruel heckling, he was sent into the world with a diploma of M. D. *cum laude*.

"Pierre volage ne queult mousse." As MacDonald wandered from Bellevue to Long Island, from Long Island to Binghamton, from Binghamton to Auburn, from Auburn to Albany, from Albany to Bellevue, in 1889, like the well-rounded rolling stone, he had gathered no moss. When he became Professor in Bellevue, there was no moss on MacDonald; but during the twenty years, he had waxed great in experience, honors and distinction, like the rolling snow-ball rather than the traditional rolling stone. See "how he bears his blushing honors thick upon him!" To-night we honor him as the true and loyal man, the capable and efficient public servant, the fearless and honest expert—and our friend.

"So much one man can do
That does both act and know."

In 1886, the Bellevue Hospital Medical College suffered the loss of its Professor of Mental Diseases, the late Doctor John P. Gray. His place seemed difficult to fill; but I thought me of Carlos MacDonald. He was appointed to the vacant chair and began to teach in 1889. It

is my pet vanity to think that I taught him how to teach. Afterward, he taught me how to learn.

MacDonald realized my ideal of a public teacher. A year or so went on. I constantly heard of MacDonald as a great teacher. We were turning out graduates who had a considerable knowledge of psychiatry in a practical way—a thing very unusual. Our students seemed to take in a knowledge of insanity by endosmosis, without effort. MacDonald well illustrated the truth of the saying:

“Men must be taught as if you taught them not.”

MacDonald was a man and a teacher of men by precept and example. As a pupil, he was a model student. He knew how to acquire knowledge and later how to create enthusiasm in imparting knowledge.

“Soundynge in moral vertu was his speche,
And gladly wolde he lerne, and gladly teche.”

As a matter of curiosity, the second or third year after MacDonald's appointment, I went to hear the first lecture of his course. After that one, I faithfully attended every lecture. There I laid the foundation of whatever I knew or know of psychiatry; and there I learned to appreciate MacDonald as a teacher.

I have known many teachers in all departments of Medicine; and at one time I considered myself an expert judge in such matters; it had been said of me by flattering friends that I have been something of a teacher myself. MacDonald was one of the best teachers I ever knew. He was easily in the class with my revered father, with Gross, Palmer, LaFord, and other old timers from whom students loved to learn, to say nothing of Stewart, the younger Flint and some few others who are teachers after the old school.

But the race of real teachers of Medicine is nearly extinct. The moderns do not think it worth while to try to learn how to teach. MacDonald and I are retired to join the *Elephas antiquus*, *Rhinoceros tichnorinus*, *Mammoth*, *Hippopotamus major*, *Ursus spelveus*, *Felis spelvea* and other gigantic fossils; the *Διδάσκαλος ἀποσβεννύμι* is the *Doctor extinctus*.

It is related that Abou Ben Adhem (“may his tribe increase”) asked the recording Angel thus:

“Write me as one who loves his fellow-men.”

Abou looked at the record later, after the list was complete:

“And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.”

Abou was much surprised to see his name in the first place and said as much to the recording Angel; but the Angel said—“A. B., this is as it should be, for, you know, we arrange the names alphabetically.”

MacDonald may well say:

“Write me as one who loves (and loves to teach) his fellow-men.”

Where shall his name be put in the list of teachers? Not alphabetically.

MacDonald, I have written out these few words for you. Possibly, after I shall have joined "the great Majority," they may serve to remind you of one who was once your teacher, once your pupil, always your friend.

AUSTIN FLINT.

District Attorney Jerome was introduced by the toastmaster with the declaration "When he was in office everybody rejoiced; when he ceases to hold office the criminals rejoice." Mr. Jerome said:

"Looking around to-night I had almost forgotten that we came here to honor our friend Doctor MacDonald. There are so many of the alienists present who appeared on both sides in the Thaw case, most of the swearers apparently being here, that this meeting appears as if it might be the first annual reunion of the Thaw trial experts.

No man has had more experience with experts than myself during the eight years I was district attorney, and during that time I recall only one man whose testimony was radically dishonest. Only one of these cases received great public attention, and that was on account of the scandals connected therewith. These scandals however were not, save with one exception, due to dishonest expert evidence, but to judicial incompetency. It does not follow because there are alienists who lie on the witness-stand that all medical expert evidence should be abolished, any more than that because some lawyers coach witnesses to a point that amounts to subornation of perjury the conduct of criminal cases should be left entirely to the judge. I have referred to the Thaw case and you all know whom I mean when I say that there was one man who testified on that occasion, who, in view of his testimony in that case, and in view of his evidence since and his own written report, would be expelled from the profession if you gentlemen had the power to disbar him. And in every case the judgment of the experts retained by the State was justified by subsequent clinical history."

Mr. Jerome then went on to outline his plan for a medical supervisory tribunal. He said there were hundreds of men in the knowledge of those present who through "drunkenness, the use of narcotics, or charlatanism, were a menace to the community," and that there is no adequate method of dealing with these cases. He said the supposed scandals connected with expert testimony would be abolished by the creation of this tribunal.

"I commend to you this thought as a matter for agitation by the medical profession. I am confident that the Legislature of this State would accede to a request on your part to grant you such a power.

There is no subject on which more poll parrot nonsense is uttered than the subject of medical expert testimony.

Out of the 15,000 lawyers in New York there are not more than fifty who are qualified by experience to speak with authority on this question. No man has had more experience with experts than myself during the eight years I was District Attorney. And during that time I recall only one man whose testimony was radically dishonest. There were many who disagreed with me honestly. In only one case was there any miscarriage of justice. And in every case the judgment of the experts retained by the State was justified by subsequent clinical history. There was only one case which attracted great public attention, and there was only one physician who was touched by the great scandals arising therefrom. And I am positive in stating that the scandals arose through judicial incompetency rather than from any corrupt medical testimony.

I have never heard of greater nonsense than the proposal that there should be a trial of the guilt or innocence of the accused first and then that the question of insanity should be considered by the court under proper safeguards. I know of no case where insanity was interposed as a defense where it was not conceded that the killing would have been murder in the first degree if the accused had been sane. I have caused the disbarment of twenty lawyers for unprofessional practices, and in not one case where I have proceeded against an attorney has he escaped disbarment or suspension.

The opinion that Dr. MacDonald gave in every case that he had charge of for me has since been verified by the subsequent clinical history of the case."

In closing he voiced his respect for Dr. MacDonald, citing a recent case wherein he had committed on his own motion to Dr. MacDonald's custody a client of his pending the determination of his sanity although the Doctor was retained by the opposition.

The Honorable DeLancey Nicoll paid a graceful tribute to Doctor MacDonald as a man, while ex-Commissioner Goodwin Brown, who was an associate with Doctor MacDonald for seven years, sketched the history of the State hospitals from their inception, in his review of Doctor MacDonald's life as a public officer.

Dr. William B. Pritchard read several letters from persons

unable to be present including Dr. Henry M. Hurd, Superintendent, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.; Dr. Jules Morel, Commissioner in Lunacy for Belgium; the Hon. Frederick Peterson, M. D., former Commissioner in Lunacy; Dr. John B. Chapin, Superintendent Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane; Dr. William A. White, Superintendent Government Hospital for the Insane, Washington, D. C.; Dr. William F. Drewry, Superintendent Central State Hospital, Petersburg, Va.; Dr. T. J. W. Burgess, Superintendent Protestant Hospital for the Insane, Montreal; Dr. C. B. Burr, Superintendent Oak Grove Hospital, Flint, Mich.; Dr. Henry W. Coe, Medical Director Crystal Springs, Portland, Oregon; Dr. R. H. Chase, Superintendent Friends' Asylum, Philadelphia; Dr. W. N. Thompson, Superintendent Hartford Retreat; the Hon. St. Clair McKelway, Regent of the State of New York; Dr. Albert Vander Veer, ex-President of the New York State Medical Society, of Albany; Dr. William Warren Potter, ex-President New York State Medical Society, Buffalo, N. Y.; Dr. Charles K. Mills, Philadelphia; Dr. Allan McLean Hamilton; Professor M. H. Cryer of the University of Pennsylvania, Major Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry; Mr. Aaron Wagoner, Captain Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and others. Three letters read as follows:

CLEVELAND, February 1, 1910.

Dear Doctor MacDonald :

I send congratulations for myself and the old boys on this red letter day of your life.

The red cheeked boy bugler of the old regiment who sounded the bugle calls from Aldie to Appomattox, has not failed to verify the prophecy of that prince among men, Colonel William Stedman, and the opinion of some of us much younger than he.

None know better than the profession the falsity of the old adage that blood will tell, and that those best born and reared rule the world. As a general proposition it may be true, but in the long run genius in most things crops out by hard work and close attention, much as it did to blow the bugle well in the old cavalry regiment. The boy is often father to the man, perhaps not in your fraternity.

You learned young to sound the sick call, and in climbing the ladder of your calling higher than many, none rejoice more than your

old companions who played their modest parts in that great tragedy which shook the world for four years.

Expressing for myself and as a representative of the old command, a high appreciation of the honor tendered you, and sending our love to the family, and particularly Miss Elizabeth, the daughter of the regiment, I am, sincerely, your friend and companion,

(Signed) A. W. FENTON,

Late Captain of Troop D, Sixth Ohio Cavalry.

BALTIMORE, January 31, 1910.

Dr. WM. B. PRITCHARD,

143 W. 72nd St., New York.

My Dear Doctor Pritchard:

I regret that an imperative engagement for Wednesday afternoon will render it impossible for me to be present at the dinner in honor of Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald, Wednesday evening. It would have given me great satisfaction to be with you to express my appreciation of his invaluable services to the State of New York in efficiently establishing the State care of the insane. The work which he did in New York marks an era in American philanthropy which has never been surpassed. He furnished the ideas and largely supplied the motive force of a system of care which has wrought untold improvement in the condition of the dependent insane. Would that we had such a man in Maryland to assist in a similar movement. All honor to him for the good work that he has accomplished!

With sincere regret at my absence believe me,

Faithfully yours,

HENRY M. HURD,

Superintendent, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,

January 31, 1910.

Dr. WM. B. PRITCHARD,

143 W. 72nd Street, New York, N. Y.

My Dear Doctor:

Your invitation to be present at a dinner, given to Dr. Carlos F. MacDonald by his friends, reached me this morning. I am exceedingly sorry that a severe cold prevents me from attending it.

My first acquaintance with Dr. MacDonald was in the stirring times of 1861-65, and no better soldier ever wore the blue; he was loved and honored by his officers and men alike, and it is not surprising to me that he has attained the position he now holds in the professional world, for the qualities which make a man eminent were shown throughout his army career.

With kindest wishes for a long enjoyment of his friends and the

fruits of his energies, I remain as ever one of his warm admirers, and comrade of the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

Yours very truly,

M. H. CRYER,
Major, Sixth Ohio Cavalry.

At the termination of the speeches Doctor MacDonald responded as follows:

Mr. Toastmaster and Friends: I am told that brevity in post-prandial oratory is now the vogue. This is a reform which, for personal reasons, I am glad to welcome and of which one of my limited capacity for after-dinner speaking is naturally prone to take advantage, as by so doing I shall hope to minimize my own ordeal and at the same time spare my hearers a possible infliction.

The fact that, aside from certain professional connections with public hospitals, I hold no official position at the present time, deprives me of the time-honored privilege of pretending that this occasion is not a tribute to me personally but to the office I hold, or to the cause which I represent. Such being the case, I may lay aside any mock modesty that might suggest itself and frankly assume, with I trust, becoming and pardonable pride, that this gathering of old friends, all of whom it has been my great privilege to know intimately, whether in an official, a professional or social relation, is for the sole purpose of giving tangible expression to their personal regard for me. I say this even at the risk of being regarded as the antithesis of the member of a brass band who asked for an assistant and when the bandmaster asked him what he wanted an assistant for replied: "To help me blow my horn."

Speaking seriously, my great and only regret on this occasion is my inability adequately to express my deep sense of gratitude for your generous manifestations of good will and esteem which your spokesmen have showered upon me in words so full of grace, of friendship and of love. These expressions of your friendship and affection are to my mind the highest reward one could receive for what he is, or for whatever of good he may have accomplished in his chosen field of labor. For after all the most important and most enduring things in life are our friendships, and while our professional or business relations are uncertain and often terminate when least expected, our *true* friendships last until the end. So that when friends get together socially it is well to forget that we are lawyers, or doctors, or business men, and to realize for the time being that we are just good friends and good fellows, for

"It is always fair weather
When good fellows get together."

Speaking of success in life, it has been said that he has achieved

success who has gained the respect of his fellow men, who has filled his niche and accomplished his task, who has tried to find the best in others and given the best he had, and by this means has left that part of the world in which his lines have fallen better than he found it, whether by an improved fruit or flower, a perfect poem or by the restoration of the bodily or mentally afflicted to health and reason.

Reference having been made by my friend Mr. Jerome to my work as an expert, I may say that the greatest compensation which has come to me in connection therewith is the delightful contact and pleasant personal relations which I have been permitted to have with many distinguished members of the Bench and of the Bar, not alone in this State, but in other States and countries as well. This contact and these relations have bred in me a profound respect and admiration for the legal profession, as a whole; while any unpleasant experiences I may have had with individual members of that profession, whether of the Bench or of the Bar, have been, with a single exception, so exceptional and so trivial as to be practically a negligible quantity. Moreover, my observations of the working methods of lawyers in the trial of causes, both criminal and civil, during a period of forty years in which I have appeared in not a few cases, have had a broadening and uplifting influence upon me. In fact, early in my career as an expert witness I was impressed by the broad and catholic spirit which usually actuates lawyers in the trial of cases; and especially by the spirit of tolerance which as a rule they display toward opposing counsel; and while these gentlemen in their zeal for the welfare of a client may occasionally resort to unethical methods, or give way to anger, they seldom allow such things to disturb their friendly, personal relations. They are only "case mad," as they term it, and they rarely carry their ill-feelings out of court. This, I regret to say, is in striking contrast to the spirit of *intolerance* which too often I have witnessed on the part of medical experts toward opposing medical experts and which in some cases has resulted in animosities lasting for a lifetime. This phase of legal ethics furnished a striking object lesson to us of the medical profession who engage in expert work and one which should serve to engender in us a like spirit of tolerance toward fellow experts who may chance to express opinions in opposition to ours. In fact it should tend to increase rather than diminish our respect for the expert who expresses an opinion contrary to our own, provided we believe him to be honest and actuated by honest motives. We should even bear in mind that, after all, expert testimony is only opinion evidence, that opinions may differ and that opinions are not criminal; also that in giving opinion evidence no expert need ever go against his conscience. In my own experience I can recall but one instance in which I was asked to testify contrary to the opinion I had formed. On the contrary, I have frequently been excused by counsel from testifying because I could not conscientiously do so for that

side. In truth it may be said that honest lawyers never expect an expert to go against his conscience. In the district attorney's office of New York county, and especially under the respective administrations of that office by DeLancey Nicoll and Wm. Travers Jerome, I have had the honor of appearing in a large number of capital cases—other alienists being associated with me in most of them at different times, including Drs. Flint, Mabon, Dana, Pritchard, Ferris, Schlapp and others. In every one of these cases we were allowed an absolutely free hand in our efforts to reach a determination of the mental condition of the accused. Some of these cases were found to be sane, others to be sane and shamming, while quite a number were found to be insane. In no instance was there a difference of opinion on the part of the examiners, while in each case the conclusion reached was accepted by the district attorney without question and the case disposed of accordingly. Finally, the subsequent history of these cases shows that in only one instance was there *even a suspicion* of a mistake in diagnosis.

Responding to Dr. Flint's remarks respecting my work as a teacher, while I realize that Dr. Flint is not in the habit of saying pleasant things to a man just for the sake of flattering him, I must say that he has a much more exalted opinion of my capacity as a teacher than I have. Furthermore, whatever of success I may have attained in that field of labor is attributable in a large degree to the knowledge of Dr. Flint's methods of teaching which I imbibed while sitting before him as a student on the benches of old Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1867-8-9.

As a teacher of physiology—and I think every doctor here to-night will agree with me—Austin Flint had no superior, and I doubt if he had an equal. Under his brilliant and vigorous teaching none but the most profoundly stupid student failed to become proficient in a practical knowledge of physiology. Professor Flint had a way of hammering the subject into the mind of a student and then driving it home and clinching it. And when, in after years, I suggested to him to take up the study of mental diseases you can imagine my embarrassment and my consternation when he came into the lecture room and sat under my teaching and took copious notes of my lectures. I must say, however, that he proved an apt student and after absorbing the little wisdom and knowledge that fell from my lips, devouring the literature of the subject and haunting the psychopathic wards at Bellevue for two or three years, where the air is fairly saturated with clinical psychiatry, he became a famous alienist able to earn his \$15 an hour, including "half an hour each way going and coming." He used to charge for an hour each way—taking of course the longest route—but not having "a pull" with the Comptroller, that watchdog of the city's cash box took a tape measure one day and measured the distance, by the shortest route, from Flint's office to the district attorney's office in the fourth story of the Criminal Courts Building

and found that the distance was just ten minutes by subway local. Since this discovery the allowance has been cut to "half an hour each way," which is pretty hard on those of us whose offices are a mile or more above 118 East 19th street. But in spite of the pecuniary loss which I have suffered through his getting found out by the Comptroller I must confess I am very fond of Flint; and when I meet him at Scheffel Hall for a night cap of Pilsner, as I do occasionally, or at the Century Club for the annual feast of roast pig, which I furnish and which he carves as artistically as he ever carved a dog in his lectures, we enjoy the roast pig and the apple sauce and the crackle together and are just good pals. Long life to Dr. Flint and more power to his elbow!

Gentlemen, drink to the health of Austin Flint!

Respecting my record in the public service, while I feel deeply indebted to Mr. Brown for the kind words he has spoken of me and especially so for what he has said in connection with my work on the Lunacy Commission, I think he has given me altogether too much credit for the achievements of that body. I feel that whatever of credit is due the Commission for the active part it took in abolishing the wretched system of county care of the insane and in establishing and developing our present splendid system of State hospital care, my associate commissioners, Messrs. Brown and Reeves, are entitled to share it equally with me. In fact, I am sure that without the aid and co-operation of those worthy and high-minded men my efforts would have counted for but little.

Fortunately for me, and for the service as well, both were broad-minded, upright, progressive men, men who always had the courage of their convictions; and while we sometimes differed in unessentials we always settled these differences in private and always presented a solid front to our antagonists and to the public—a fact which contributed not a little to our successes.

The model State hospital system of the State of New York to-day is a living testimonial not alone to the work of the Lunacy Commissioners, but to the united efforts of Governors Hill, Flower and Morton, the legislature, substantially all of the medical profession of this State, and of the medical and secular press, the hospital superintendents and many other philanthropic men and women. Founded on the broad basis of science, humanity and liberality, the system to-day stands for all that is best in our present knowledge of the care and the treatment of the insane.

In conclusion, I thank you each and all from the bottom of my heart for the inestimable privilege of meeting so many of my old friends and of being made to feel so much at home among you. In the words of the poet I may truly say:

"This is to me a night of honest pride,
 "'T would be in vain to check the rising tide
 "Of varied feelings which within me rise,
 "And call the grateful moisture to mine eyes,
 "The time, the scene, the friends around me all,
 "A thousand memories at once recall.
 "Memories which, like the plant that never knows decay,
 "Fade not till life itself hath passed away."

Upon the conclusion of the reply of Doctor MacDonald, the various Scotsmen, members or connections of the Clan MacDonald, together with the other participators in the dinner pressed the hand of the honored guest of the occasion and wended their way homeward during "the wee sma' hours anent the twal."

ALBERT WARREN FERRIS.

